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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 21, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Visits of Chancellor Adenauer and Mayor Brandt

In your meeting on February 17 with German Foreign Minister von Brentano, you expressed the hope that Chancellor Adenauer could visit this country some time in the spring. I would suggest April 12-13 as dates for this visit, which I believe should be a "working visit" of the sort Prime Minister Macmillan will make in early April.

Such a visit would be expected to involve on your part one or two meetings with Adenauer, a lunch or dinner given by you and attendance at a lunch or dinner given by Adenauer. Detailed recommendations will be made to you prior to the visit.

Among the reasons for suggesting that Adenauer come this soon is the announced intention of Willy Brandt, Governing Mayor of West Berlin and Adenauer's opponent in the forthcoming Federal elections, to visit the United States from March 11-19 (in Washington March 11-15) in response to private invitations. I believe it is important that you receive Brandt while he is in Washington. He is very much identified with West Berlin as a symbol of Western freedom in the face of Communist pressure. One of our principal problems in dealing with Berlin is keeping freshly before the world our determination to support West Berlin at all costs. Your meeting with Brandt would help in this effort. Conversely, if you did not see him, particularly after President Eisenhower had received him in 1959, an inference of declining United States support would be drawn by some.

However, I feel we should announce, as far in advance of Brandt's visit as possible, your invitation to Adenauer, setting a specific date. Otherwise, the treatment that Brandt receives here might be interpreted in Germany as indicating United States support for him as opposition candidate as well as in his capacity as Mayor of Berlin. It would, of course, be most appropriate if Adenauer's invitation could be taken back to Germany by Ambassador Dowling when he returns to Bonn the first of next week. In that case it could be released to the press in Washington after Ambassador Dowling confirms that it has been conveyed to the Chancellor.

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
State 4/2/75 NLK-75-129
By _____ NARS, Date _____

In summary, therefore, I recommend that:

- 1) You now set a specific date for an early working visit by Chancellor Adenauer; I suggest April 12-13 for this purpose;
- 2) If possible, Ambassador Dowling carry the invitation back with him to Bonn;
- 3) You agree to public announcement of the Adenauer visit well in advance of Brandt's arrival;
- 4) You agree to receive Brandt for a brief informal call, preferably on March 13 or 14.

Dean Rusk

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